

was a fine athlete. He played cricket for Lancashire in 1892 when he was 19 years old and he represented the Straits Settlements on more than one occasion. He also played Rugby football for Liverpool in the days when Liverpool had one of the best sides in the north of England.

With his death, the Society has lost a generous patron and benefactor who repeatedly contributed to the cost of plates in our Journal. His zealous work for the protection of wild life in Malaya is outstanding, and equally so was his knowledge of its wild animals as evidenced in his writings and his fine camera portraits of Malayan wild life.

R.I.P.

### SIR DAVID EZRA

(1871-1947)

By the death of David Ezra, Kt., at the age of 76 at his Calcutta residence on August 23, 1947, the Bombay Natural History Society has lost a very old Life Member and Vice-Patron. Born in 1871 of a wealthy family of one of the earliest Jewish settlers in India from Bagdad he never stinted his services for enhancing the dignity of his community's contribution to India's progress, specially in the field of humanitarian work. Loved universally for his affable manners and never-failing courtesy and humility, he seems to have earned the confidence of all, high and low, and for almost a period of 40 years his was a strikingly popular figure in Calcutta's social functions. The exalted office of the Sheriff of Calcutta, which he held in 1925-26, was yet another opportunity to him for giving the best of his civic services.

He was a lover of Arts and patron of learning. The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal elected him its President for two terms in succession (1940-42). He was a member of the Honorary Committee for the management of the Zoological Gardens, Calcutta. From an early age he appears to have focussed his interest on animals and birds, of which he was an indefatigable collector. His Calcutta house, which contained his menagerie, might be termed a veritable Zoo. Along two sides of the boundary walls of his compound the ranges of bird houses are located, and the swannery is on the south side. Besides, there are stables, paddocks and enclosures for rare animals and the larger birds. These represented mostly exotic species and foreign specimens. He had almost a passion for pets, tame animals and talking birds, and the pursuit of his hobby in this direction enabled him to acquire unique experience in the taming and management of his diverse collection. In this collection one could see prize zebras, baby bears, hunting cheetas, Assam elephant, Manchurian Crane, turkeys, swans from the King's Swannery, rare ornamental waterfowl, pheasants, and game birds, charming members of the parrot tribe from abroad, Birds of Paradise, Bataleur Eagle from South Africa, etc. He was a race-horse owner and seems to have taken pride in the mere possession of some

prize animals. But he was never known to bet on his or others' horses, preferring always to race for the sheer love of the sport.

S. C. LAW.

REGINALD INNES POCOCK, F.R.S.

(1863-1947)

(With a plate)

By the death of R. I. Pocock, Zoology has lost a versatile naturalist and the Society a valuable contributor. Reginald Innes Pocock was the son of the Rev. Nicholas Pocock, and was born at Clifton on March 4th, 1863. He was first at school in Clifton and afterwards in Oxford from where he went to University College, Bristol. Shortly after completing his studies there he was appointed in 1885 to the staff of the British Museum (Natural History) and given charge of the *Arachnida* and *Myriopoda*. He took up the study of these invertebrates with great zeal and soon made a name for himself. Between 1887 and 1910, he wrote some thirty papers on the fauna of India and adjacent countries, as well as over a hundred on that of other countries. One of his first contributions dealing with the Indian Region, was on the Myriopoda of the Mergui Archipelago collected by Dr. John Anderson, published in 1887. Eight years later he contributed to the Journal an account of the *Galeodidae* inhabiting India and Ceylon, and this was the beginning of Pocock's long connection with the Society. He was specially interested in scorpions and published in the Annals and Magazine of Natural History for 1890 a paper on a collection made in Travancore by Edgar Thurston. About this time he began to correspond with our founder, the late H. M. Phipson, who at his request, appealed to members to collect scorpions. Large numbers of scorpions, alive and dead, were received at the Society's rooms as the result of this appeal and among them were several new species which Pocock described in the Journal for 1897. The first volume of the *Fauna of British India* had been published in 1888 and Pocock was asked to write on the *Arachnida*, etc. He completed his first volume on the Scorpions, *Uropygia*, *Amblypygia* and *Solifugae* and part of the *Araneae* in 1901. Unfortunately before he had finished his second volume, dealing with the remainder of the *Araneae*, Pocock retired from the British Museum and was appointed Superintendent of the Gardens of the Zoological Society in 1904. He had always been interested in Mammals, and while at the Museum had made collecting trips to the Balearic Islands and Spain, in search of small mammals, with the late Oldfield Thomas.

At the Zoological Gardens he had ample opportunity to study live animals, especially his favourite groups, the monkeys, carnivora and ungulates. He took every advantage of examining in the prosectorium any animals which died, making drawings of the soft parts and dissecting the facial and other glands. Henceforth he